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Monday
May 18, 2026

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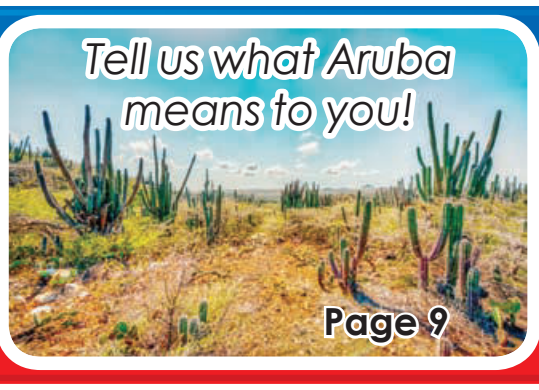

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

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SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO	ANDERSON BAHAMON	JEAN PAUL	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	MARRYBELL MADURO	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	RICKY THOMAS
SINGER	SINGER	SAXOPHONIST	VIOLINIST	SINGER	VIOLINIST	GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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White House mass prayer event seeks to reclaim U.S. Christian roots

Washington, United States

Thousands of people gathered Sunday in downtown Washington for a mass prayer festival featuring speeches by top Trump administration officials -- an event critics see as an overt display of Christian nationalism undermining the separation of church and state.

Attendees sang and swayed to Christian music blared out on the National Mall, along with addresses by Christian pastors.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson are listed as guest speakers. President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio will address the crowd via video.

The gathering was organized by the White House as part of a program of celebrations for America's 250th anniversary and, in a video message inviting Americans to attend, Hegseth said it was an opportunity to "rededicate this republic to God and country."

Christian worshipers listen to speakers and engage in prayer during the Roots of Revival event at the Washington Monument, held a day ahead of "Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving" in Washington, DC, on May 16, 2026.

Muscular Christian nationalism has enjoyed a prominent platform since Trump's return to power, and evangelicals form a core element of the president's support base.

Hegseth is a member of an ultra-conservative evangelical church, and his briefings on the Iran war have been notable for their use of bellicose, Christian rhetoric.

"Today, friends, we are in a spiritual war. This is a battle in our day between good and evil, between right and wrong, between truth and lies, between light and darkness," Pastor Gary Hamrick of Virginia told the crowd.

"This is a battle for the very soul of America."

The U.S. Constitution explicitly bars the establishment of any official religion, but the expression of any faith is also explicitly protected.

"We came here to rededicate our country back to God. Our country has fallen away in so many areas," Jeana Dobbins, a 67-year-old retiree who traveled from North Carolina with her friend, told AFP.

Attendee Sarah Tyson, holding a "Jesus Saves" sign, said she believes Trump was chosen by God to lead the nation through a new spiritual revival.

"God ordained him for a time like this, because these United States need to wake up," said Tyson, a middle-aged woman who came from New York with fellow church members.

While previous administrations and presidents have regularly held and attended faith-based gatherings, Sunday's event is still unusual for its scale and the presence of top cabinet officials.

And apart from a rabbi and a retired Catholic archbishop, almost all the 20 listed "faith leaders" who will speak are evangelical Protestants.

"It's not unprecedented to have a group of evangelical pastors or conservative clergy come together for something like this and blend a certain kind of nationalism with a certain kind of conservative Christianity," said Sam Perry, a professor at Baylor University, a Christian school in Texas.

But "the Trump administration taking the lead on this celebration at this scale is different than previous events," Perry added.

The organizers' website says the prayer gathering is for "Americans of every background" but Julie Ingersoll, a professor of religious studies at the University of North Florida, says the list of speakers suggests "an idea of American identity that is rooted in whiteness and Christianity."

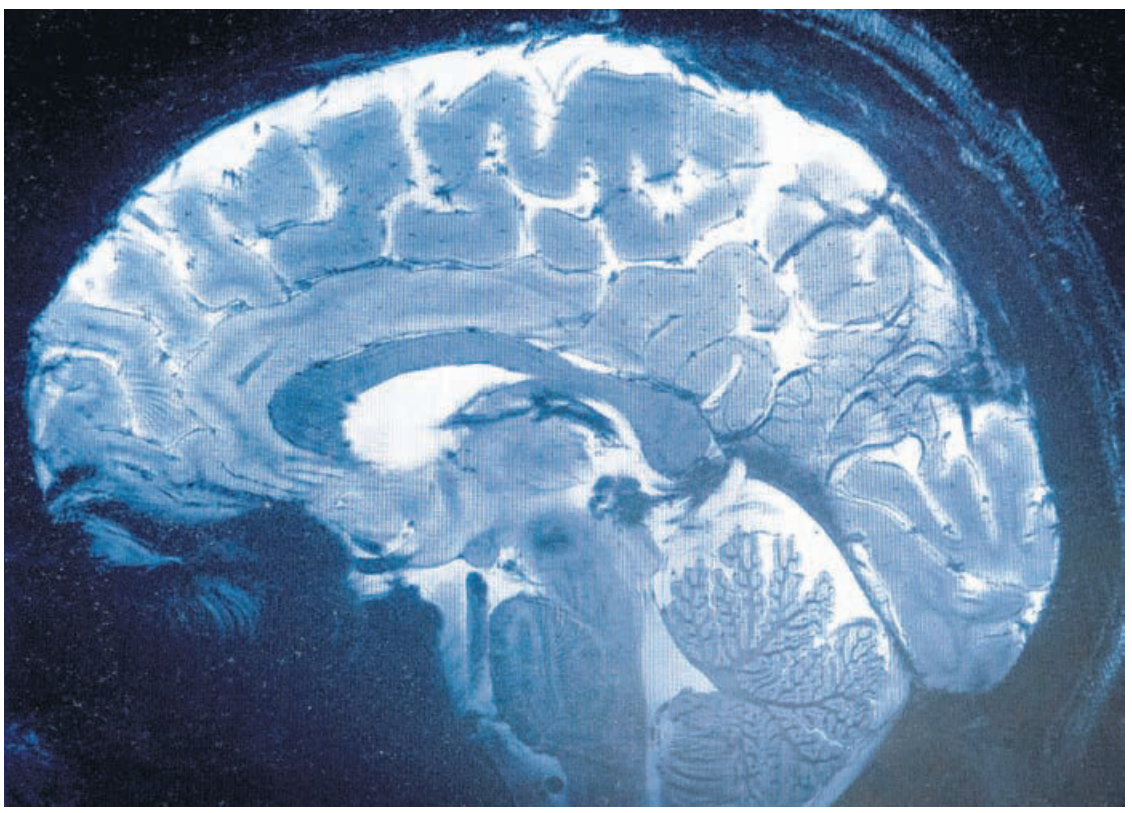
The event "sends a specific message... that they are the mainstream Americans, and the rest of us are sidelined," Ingersoll said.

The National Mall, which stretches from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, is a common site for mass rallies and protests -- most famously the 1963 March on Washington, when an estimated 250,000 people heard Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Sunday's gathering is scheduled to last around nine hours.❑

Healing the Mind: Breakthrough in treatment-resistant depression

NEW HAVEN, CT — In a major leap forward for psychiatric medicine, researchers at Yale University have unveiled new brain-imaging data that finally decodes how fast-acting treatments "reset" the neural circuits of patients suffering from severe, treatment-resistant depression. The study, released on March 8, 2026, offers a definitive roadmap for a new generation of antidepressants designed to provide relief in hours rather than weeks.



This image made with the Iseult Magneton 11.7 T MRI shows a brain during a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam simulation at the Neurospin facilities in the Paris-Saclay Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA - Commissariat a l'energie atomique et aux energies alternatives) centre in Gif-sur-Yvette, on March 22, 2024.

Cracking the "Neural Code"

For decades, the "gold standard" for treating depression relied on medications that take over a month to show efficacy, a timeframe that is often dangerously long for those in the depths of a mental health crisis. However, the new findings from the Yale School of Medicine highlight a fundamental shift in how we understand the brain's recovery process.

By utilizing advanced functional MRI (fMRI) and PET scans, the Yale team tracked changes in critical brain receptors that facilitate communication between neurons. They discovered that fast-acting compounds, such as ketamine and its derivatives, trigger an immediate release of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF)—a protein often described as "Miracle-Gro for the brain". This protein rapidly repairs damaged synaptic connections in the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus, regions vital for mood regulation.

A success rate that defies tradition

While traditional SSRIs typically only help about one-third of patients achieve full remission on the first try, the results from these fast-acting protocols are significantly more robust.

Rapid Response: Nearly 65% of patients who have failed multiple other treatments show significant improvement within 24 hours.

Structural repair: The imaging showed that even after a single dose, dendritic spines—the "branches" of brain cells—began to regrow, effectively re-wiring the emotional circuits that had been "pruned" by chronic stress and depression.

"This discovery finally shows how the sensation of 'recovery' works at the molecular level," noted the researchers in a summary published by ScienceDaily.

Beyond the pill: The Rise of Intensive Protocols

The breakthrough coincides with other "compressed" treatment models gaining traction this March. A separate study from UCLA Health found that an intensive five-day protocol of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)—a non-invasive brain stimulation—offered symptom relief comparable to the standard six-week treatment.

"We are moving toward a world where a week of intensive therapy could replace years of trial-and-error with different pills," said Dr. Thomas Adams, a Yale neurotherapy expert visiting the University of Arkansas this month to discuss these somatic interventions.

The human impact

For patients like 42-year-old Sarah M., who participated in the imaging trials, the science is more than just data. "I lived in a fog for fifteen years. I tried every medication on the market," she shared. "Within six hours of the new treatment, I felt like someone had literally turned the lights on in my head. I could see the colors of the trees again. I felt like myself for the first time in a decade."

As insurance companies begin to catch up with the clinical data—evidenced by the High Seas Treaty and other global policy shifts toward health equity—these breakthroughs are expected to become the new standard of care by the end of 2026.

A new era for mental health

The Yale study is being hailed as the "biggest breakthrough in 50 years" for depression research. By moving away from simply managing symptoms and toward physically repairing the brain's architecture, scientists believe they are on the cusp of making "treatment-resistant" a term of the past.

As the Yale Translational Brain Imaging Program continues to recruit for follow-up studies, the message to millions of sufferers is clear: recovery is not just a hope—it is a biological reality that is now within reach.❑

1 in 3 Americans say sacrificed for health care costs

Washington, United States

One in three Americans said they made some sacrifice last year -- like skipping a meal or rationing medicine -- to cover health care costs, according to a survey released Thursday.

High health care costs, especially compared to peer nations, represent a significant portion of many Americans' strained budgets, prompting some to choose to drive less to save on gas, cut back on electricity and borrow money to make ends meet.

Gathered from responses by 20,000 participants last year, the West Health-Gallup Center survey estimates more than 82 million Americans resorted to at least one sacrifice to pay medical bills.

The most vulnerable and uninsured were most likely to cut corners, but 11 percent of well-off households also reported making trade-offs.

"When families across every income level are forced to choose between medical bills and paying their heating or electric bill, that's not a personal budgeting problem -- it's a systems failure," said Tim Lash, president of the West Health Policy Center, in a statement.

The finding comes amid continued concerns about the rising cost of living, expected to once again be a key issue when voters head to the polls in November for midterm elections.

Another survey of 5,660 Americans at the end of 2025 from West Health found many Americans are delaying medical treatments and surgical procedures because of exorbitant healthcare costs.

Kara Pitt D'Andrea of Wisconsin speaks about the challenges of running a health care center during the State(s) of the Union Town Hall: For the People, Not Billionaires at Eastern Market on February 23, 2026 in Washington, DC.

The poll found healthcare costs led 14 percent of respondents put off buying a home, while nine percent postponed retirement and six percent delayed plays to have a child or adopt.❑

Cantona on the couch: footballer explores ‘demons’ in raw new film

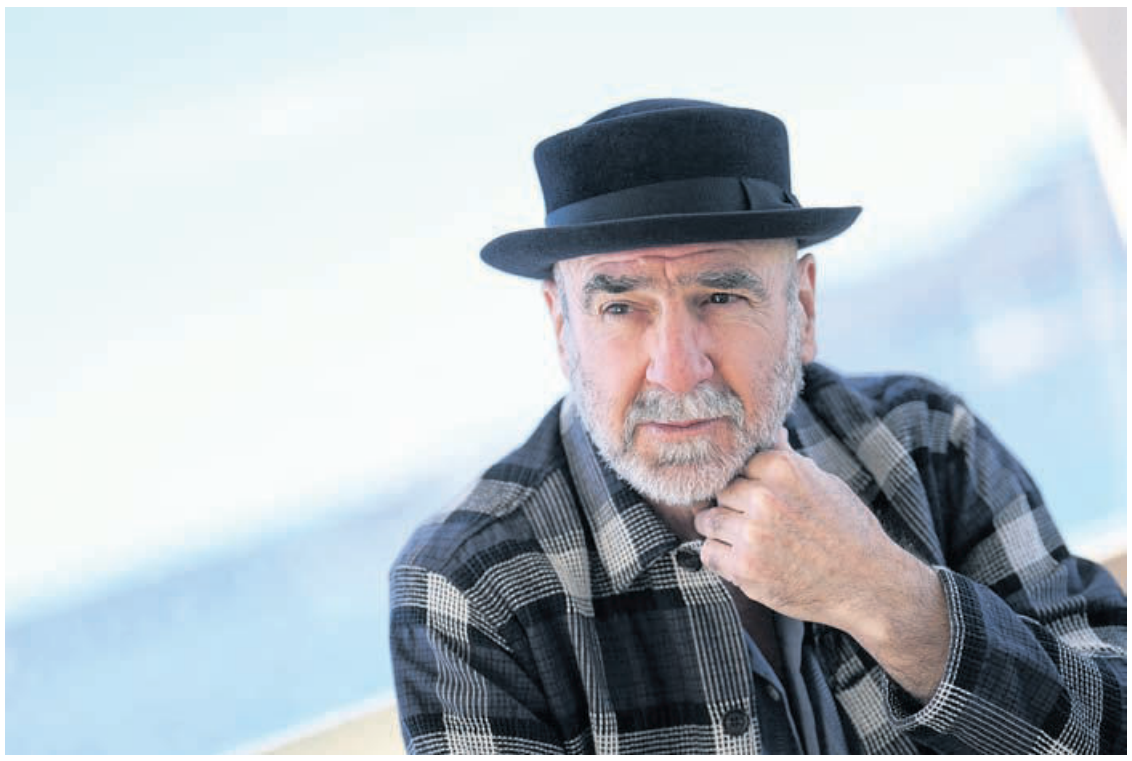
Cannes, France

French football legend Eric Cantona told AFP he's been doing therapy since age 20 but still struggles with his "demons", which he lays bare in a raw new documentary about his life.

One of the beautiful game's most colourful characters agreed to open up about his famously explosive and fragile ego in "Cantona" which is one of two soccer documentaries premiering at the Cannes Film Festival this week.

The 115-minute film by British directors David Tryhorn and Ben Nicholas features extensive interviews with the footballer-turned-actor in what sometimes resembles an extended session of psychoanalysis.

Insight from former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and one-time teammate David Beckham, as well as a gripping soundtrack from one half of 1990s dance music legends Orbital, make it a compelling watch.



French actor Eric Cantona looks on during an interview on the sidelines of the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on May 16, 2026.

"I'm constantly trying to figure out who I am, and that's why I do my best to act on instinct as much as possible," Cantona told AFP on Saturday.

"Of course, there are times when things get a bit out of hand, but that's part of life and I accept it."

Has therapy helped?

"I've done a lot ... I started at 20 and I've continued at different moments. It's a world that interests me a lot," added the 59-year-old, who is also appearing in French drama "Les Matins merveilleux" (Marvellous Mornings) in Cannes.

In "Cantona" the documentary, he refers repeatedly to the "fire" and "demon" inside him which made him such a combustible figure on and off the pitch, but also one capable of turning a game with a sublime pass or an instinctive goal.

The documentary focuses on his five trophy-laden years at Manchester United that saw him become one of the game's biggest stars, but one notorious for kung-fu kicking a fan after being sent off at Crystal Palace in 1995.

"Of course, I've got a lot of them in my head and it's good to accept them," he said when asked about his demons. "I make them live together and they like having a party."

- World Cup effect? -

There is a surprising amount of football in Cannes this year, the high temple of art-house cinema, with Argentine-made "The Match" spotlighting the notorious England-Argentina 1986 World Cup match settled by a goal awarded after a handball by Diego Maradona.

"In that match you have justice, injustices, beauty... all in a kind of pressure cooker," co-director Juan Cabral told AFP about the quarter-final which took place four years after Britain and Argentina had fought over the Falkland Islands.

"That match contains every possible match in history," Cabral added.

The director of the Cannes film festival, Thierry Fremaux, claimed at the premiere of "Cantona" on Saturday that "it's not because we have a World Cup in a month that we have films about football".

Soccer-themed documentaries have proliferated in recent years, with the 2023 hit Netflix series about David Beckham helping popularise the genre.

A new production on illustrious Italian football manager Carlo Ancelotti by Paulo Sorrentino was announced in Cannes on Friday.

Like its subject, "Cantona" the documentary is seeking to stand out from the crowd.

"You have a lot of documentaries now that feel like publicity for the athlete," Tryhorn told AFP.

"Whereas Eric (Cantona) is very happy to be brutally honest and accept 'this is who I am as a person with all my flaws and positive sides'. That's very rare for a film like this," he added.❑

‘Peaky Blinders’ creator says he has licence to reinvent James Bond

Steven Knight attends "Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" BAFTA Screening at Whitby Hotel on March 09, 2026 in New York City.

Cannes, France

"Peaky Blinders" creator Steven Knight, who is writing the next "Bond" movie, has strongly hinted that the ageing British spy is about to get really shaken and stirred.

The writer said that Amazon has given him a licence to play with the legendary MI6 secret agent created by author Ian Fleming.

"Bond has been bullet-proof. People have been able to make mistakes and variations and the character has survived," Knight told Screen magazine at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Because the core of it is like a diamond. You can't touch it. The person you are talking about is folklore," he added.

The writer told reporters that he has done research with "the SAS and even more secret outfits" for his reinvention of the next 007 movie, the first produced by Amazon.

He said he has met special forces and secret services personnel as part of his immersion in their world.

"I am talking to them about what they do every day. It's all real," he said of scenarios he is exploring.

- New 'Peaky Blinders' series -

Bond's creator Fleming himself "was living that life in the war (World War II)" as an intelligence officer, he added.

"He was doing those things. He knew people doing that stuff, going out there and killing people."

But Knight said his lips were sealed on what new turns Bond might take.

"I can't say anything on the script," he insisted to Screen.

Knight, who has just completed a documentary about Oasis's record-breaking reunion tour, is in Cannes to drum up business for his Digbeth Loc studio in his native Birmingham, where "Peaky Blinders" is set and shot.

"We are filming the next series (of 'Peaky Blinders') at the moment, we will have it in the can in a few weeks," he told industry site Deadline. "People are going to be pleasantly surprised how it has turned out, because it is so good."❑

'Geek' hangout to tourist draw: Japan's maid cafes

This picture taken on March 3, 2026 shows maid Tetote (R) working in the "at-home cafe" in Akihabara district of Tokyo.

Tokyo, Japan

"Master, mistress -- welcome home!" exclaims the smiling young woman in a French maid's costume, as customers pass through the looking glass into a unique Japanese world with oodles of quirkiness, cuteness and cake.

These "maid cafes" -- inspired by the traditional maid outfit that has long been a motif in Japanese pop culture -- have evolved from niche subculture hangouts 20 years ago into a mainstream attraction for people of all ages and genders.

And staff working there insist that the experience is not in any way designed to titillate, saying it is meant to be a wholly innocent family-friendly experience.

"I've been fighting against prejudice for 22 years," Hitomi, a "maid" in Tokyo's Akihabara neighbourhood where the cafes started, told AFP.

"Little remarks can be hurtful... In those moments, I tell myself that what we do isn't yet sufficiently understood."

Waitresses, wearing a short dress, petticoat, pinafore and hair accessory, serve brightly coloured drinks or twee delights like a dish called "Wan Wan! Puppy Curry Rice" (made with beef) or "Cutie Toy Poodle Cake".

But the experience is more about the interaction with customers, with the maids clasping their hands together in heart shapes, chanting "magic spells" over the food, singing songs or playing games.

"We serve food and drinks, but to me, it is more like a theme park than a cafe," said Hitomi.

In this fairytale world, "the waitresses aren't just 'girls,' but rather slightly fantastical characters who are eternally 17 years old", the mother-of-two told AFP, preferring not to give her real age.

At-Home Cafe, which employs 650 maids across 13 locations, says it has strict rules to protect staff and govern interactions with patrons. This includes no touching and prohibiting the maids from handing out flyers on the street.

French tourist Taha Hsine, 26, visiting a cafe with his girlfriend, admitted that he had half-expected to see "sweaty guys coming in to see their favourite maid".

He told AFP at first it was "difficult to be at ease. In France, we're not used to this kind of thing".

"But otherwise, the experience itself, even the way the meals are prepared, I find it really stylish."

"I was expecting a mostly male audience, but there are a lot of foreigners and women," agreed Japanese customer Hazuki, 19, visiting with her boyfriend "out of curiosity".

Others queueing to enter were an excited seven-year-old girl from South Korea on her third visit with her mother and grandmother.

- Otaku -

The trend emerged in the early 2000s in Akihabara, renowned at the time as the birthplace of "otaku", sometimes translated as "geek", culture.

This term, then largely pejorative, usually described men with an intense passion for manga and anime.

"When I first became a maid, Akihabara was very much an 'otaku' district where a girl like me wasn't exactly welcome," Hitomi recalled.

"Over 90 percent of the customers were men, they wouldn't make eye contact with me, and they struggled to carry on a conversation."

But the meteoric rise of all-girl pop group AKB48 -- short for Akihabara -- and TV series "Densha Otoko" ("Train Man"), a romantic comedy about a young "otaku", helped soften the scene's edges.

"A genuine 'Akihabara boom' then took place," explains Ryo Hirose, a subculture specialist at the NLI Research Institute.

"Completely ordinary people began flocking there, and 'otaku' -- along with their culture and even the maids themselves -- were, in a sense, transformed into attractions."

At-Home Cafe, one of the leading chains, says that women now make up 57 percent of the customers registered on its app.

Some maids have become quasi-celebrities and media personalities, building their personal brand on social media and sometimes sought out by customers.

Many cafes have implemented a complex membership system, where frequent visits unlock privileges such as special menu items, the right to take a Polaroid photo with the maids, or discounted rates.

- Grey zone -

Researcher Hirose said that the interactions in maid cafes are sometimes built upon a "pseudo-romance" fantasised by some regular customers.

"Some may come to believe that the other person actually has feelings for them," he said.

Over time other kinds of "concept" cafes have also emerged, featuring everything from ninjas to cross-dressing women and liveried butlers.❑

India, Sweden, seal strategic partnership deal

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) and Netherlands' Prime Minister Rob Jetten react during a CEO roundtable on Economic Ties as part of an official visit of India's Prime Minister in The Hague on May 16, 2026.

Gothenburg, Sweden

Sweden and India announced a strategic partnership deal Sunday aimed at doubling their trade and investment over the next five years, as Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson India's Narendra Modi met.

The new deal comes against the background of the free trade agreement that India and the European Union signed in January, said Kristersson, at a news conference attended by Modi and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen.

"We have a joint ambition to double our bilateral trade and investments within five years with current speed," he said.

"I actually believe it could become reality even sooner."

Annual trade between the two countries currently stands at $7.75 billion.

"Under this partnership, we will move forward on key pillars such as green transition, defence, emerging technologies, and people-to-people ties," said Modi, speaking through a translator.

The two countries also want to develop ties in the fields of security, technology, artificial intelligence and space technology.

The two countries' space agencies signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on an instrument that will be part of the Venus Orbiter mission, said Kristersson.

Von der Leyen said an EU-India agreement was due to be signed by the end of the year at a major business event for European and EU companies.

"But trade is only half of the equation," she added. "Our next step must be to deliver an investment agreement.

"And this is the missing piece of the puzzle in our reinforced economic cooperation, especially in a world where supply chains are being reshaped and economic security challenges us as never before.

"Deepening our investment ties will help us to de-risk and to diversify," said von der Leyen.

Modi's European tour continues with a visit to Norway on Monday and Tuesday, which will include a summit with the Nordic countries.

The final stage of his tour will be a visit to Italy, where Modi will meet Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.❑

Crackdown in Southeast Asia pushes scam networks to Sri Lanka

Colombo, Sri Lanka

A surge in arrests of suspected foreign scammers in Sri Lanka has authorities concerned that the island is fast becoming a hub for online crime, following sweeping crackdowns in hotspots Cambodia and Myanmar.

Officials say some scam networks forced out of countries in Southeast Asia have simply shifted to new bases, increasingly moving operations to Sri Lanka -- an attractive destination due to a relaxed visa regime and reliable, high-speed internet.

Since the start of the year, police have arrested more than 1,000 foreigners, mainly from China, Vietnam and India, for alleged involvement in cybercrime, spokesman Fredrick Wootler said, a jump from 430 for the entirety of 2024 and even fewer last year.

Last month, Sri Lankan customs officials intercepted nine Chinese nationals attempting to smuggle used mobile phones and laptops in the hundreds, raising suspicion they were to be used in large-scale fraud operations.

Fraud compounds where scammers lure internet users into fake romantic relationships, cryptocurrency investments and betting platforms have flourished across Southeast Asia.

Sri Lankan police personnel escort detained Indian and Nepalese nationals suspected of running cyber fraud centres, to a court in Galle on May 12, 2026.

Initially largely targeting Chinese speakers, the criminal groups behind the compounds have expanded operations into multiple languages.

Those conducting the scams are sometimes willing con artists, and other times trafficked foreign nationals forced to work.

Officials say the networks operating in Sri Lanka target victims across Asia, including in India, Vietnam and the Philippines, but there are growing concerns Sri Lankans could be next.

Authorities are also investigating whether foreign syndicates were involved in a recent cyberattack on the Sri Lankan treasury that resulted in around $2.5 million in losses.

- Landlords warned -

China, which has stepped up cooperation with regional governments in recent years to crack down on scam networks, has acknowledged the geographical shift.

Beijing's embassy in Colombo said illicit activity in Sri Lanka had risen following enforcement actions in Cambodia, Myanmar as well as the United Arab Emirates.

"The Chinese government attaches great importance to this trend," the embassy said in a statement, pledging closer cooperation with Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies.

The networks displaced from Myanmar and Cambodia, where authorities have stepped up raids and deportations, exploit the island's 30-day tourist visas for nationals of more than 40 countries, including India and China, while others can easily apply for permits online.

Criminal gangs are setting up in rented spaces ranging from luxury villas to office complexes.

Police have begun warning property owners against renting villas and apartments to suspected scam operators, saying they could face prosecution for aiding criminal activity.

The vast scale of these operations has become clearer in recent weeks, with police "getting a lot of calls on a daily basis", according to spokesman Wootler.

He told AFP that in a single night this week, "we carried out five raids" in the coastal Galle and Matara districts, netting 192 Indian suspects and 29 Nepalis.

Another 280 foreign suspects were arrested last week near the capital Colombo, and 135 Chinese nationals were apprehended in March at a single scam centre.

- Regional crisis -

As cases surge, immigration authorities are now playing a larger role in investigations.

"We are getting our agents directly involved because of the increase in the number of cases handled by police," an immigration official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The expansion of criminal networks mirrors a broader regional crisis.

A United Nations report issued this year estimated that at least 300,000 people have been trafficked into scam compounds across Southeast Asia.❑

World Cup fever gets tail-wagging twist as Singapore kits out pets

Pet dogs wearing matching football shirts are pictured during a media preview of FurKids Fiesta, showcasing Adidas' first pet collection, in Singapore on May 16, 2026.

Singapore, Singapore

Football fever is getting a tail-wagging twist in Singapore as fans count down to this year's FIFA World Cup in June.

Sportswear giant Adidas is giving pet lovers in the city-state a novel way to show team spirit -- football shirts for their four-legged friends.

The company's first pet collection in Singapore swaps the usual squeaky toys and chew bones for mini-football fashion, including pint-sized jerseys of Japan and reigning world champions Argentina.

The pet kit is on sale at a pop-up store in the city's Clarke Quay district this weekend and next, and from May 24 at select Adidas stores and online.

The collection taps into two obsessions for residents in the affluent city-state: football and pets.

"By offering World Cup jerseys as part of the pet collection, we are giving fans a new way to express their love for the game and celebrate it as a shared family experience," Chen Rui Yuan, Adidas country manager for Singapore, told AFP.

"Pets today are increasingly seen as part of the family and an extension of consumers' lifestyles, especially among younger urban audiences."

At a media preview on Saturday, dogs previously rescued from shelters and their owners strutted on a fashion runway, some wearing matching World Cup shirts.

"I think it's a really great idea. I'm a big believer of pet adoption and rescuing dogs, so it's really great that I have clothes that I can match with Mocha," said lawyer Deryne Sim, 40, who wore Japan's blue shirt with her dog Mocha.

"The World Cup is something that previously only humans enjoyed, like we can watch it on TV, we can go to the bar, we can hang out with friends.

"But now with these jerseys from Adidas, our dogs can join in too," she told AFP.

Eleanor Tan, 61, came to the "furkids fiesta" event with her three bichon frises, all wearing Japan's colours.❑

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life.❑

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches during breading season? In the national park, a Least Tern (Sternula antillarum) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (Ajaia ajaja) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamento. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaeceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands).

The afore mentioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!❑

ARUBA TODAY

CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors

(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with *chimichurri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at $79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome.❑

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!❑

INFINI Unveils Caribbean Impression 15: A New Menu Experience

At INFINI, dining has always been about more than food. It is about storytelling, connection, and pushing the boundaries of Caribbean cuisine. With the introduction of Caribbean Impression 15, the restaurant presents a new tasting menu that reflects both the richness of the region and the creativity behind the kitchen.

This new menu is a refined journey through flavor, memory, and movement across the Caribbean. Each course is carefully composed to highlight bold ingredients, layered techniques, and unexpected pairings that elevate familiar tastes into something entirely new.
The experience begins with Brioche, a warm and aromatic introduction infused with curry, garlic, thyme, and honey. It is comforting yet complex, setting the stage for what follows.

Koli Koli brings a fresh and vibrant contrast. Hamachi is paired with honeydew melon, jalapeño, lemon, and sansho, creating a balance between sweetness, heat, and citrus brightness. It is a dish that feels light, precise, and full of energy.
With Jambo, the menu dives deeper into the flavors of the sea. Chilean seabass, octopus, mussels, and scallops come together with okra, cilantro, and Madam Jeanette, delivering a dish that is rich, layered, and unmistakably Caribbean in spirit.

A pause in the journey comes with Limpia Paladar, a palate cleanser designed to refresh and reset the senses before the next course. This is followed by Mojito, a refreshing and aromatic expression that plays on familiar notes in a refined way.

The menu then moves into deeper, more indulgent territory with Stout Stew. Short ribs, local pastrami, and sirloin are slow cooked with stout, shiitake, maitake, and carrots, resulting in a dish that is rich, comforting, and full of depth.
Sweetness arrives with Quesillo, a black garlic flan paired with pineapple, plantain, tamarind, and all spice. It is a bold and unexpected dessert that balances savory and sweet in a way that feels both nostalgic and modern.
The experience continues with a playful

Bahama Mama cupcake, bringing a light and tropical finish, followed by Batata. This dish combines sweet potato, caviar, coconut, jerk spices, onion, and pineapple, offering a final savory note that is both surprising and memorable.
The journey closes with Limpia Man, a final refresh that leaves a lasting impression.

Caribbean Impression 15 is offered as a five course tasting experience, designed to flow seamlessly from one moment to the next. It reflects INFINI's commitment to showcasing the Caribbean in a way that is elevated, expressive, and deeply connected to place.
Reservations are required. To reserve your table, call +297 699 3982 or send an email to reservations@infiniaruba.com.

This is not just a menu. It is a new chapter for INFINI, where each dish becomes part of a larger story told through flavor, creativity, and intention.❑

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?… we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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ARUBA TODAY

Why 'Rock Stacking' is more dangerous than you think

(Oranjestad) — "Rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Conservation organizations repeatedly warn people not to participate. To understand the growing opposition to the practice of stacking rocks, it is necessary to understand the deep and negative impact behind it.

The act, called rock stacking, has been practiced for thousands of years and was originally used to guide people on hikes or travelers in mountainous regions, as well as for rituals, burials, and memorials. However, the modern trend is quite different. Today, the popularity of rock stacking has less to do with utility and tradition and more to do with social media. An American artist based in Colorado, Michael Grab, noted that the trend really began gaining popularity around 2014 and 2015, before it exploded and became an international art form.

The reasons behind participation vary widely, ranging from something purely practical or a tradition from the past, to an activity for its "beauty." For many, it is about leaving a mark, creating "art," or simply enjoying the process of balancing rocks. In recent times, those who participate in this—especially in Aruba—do so to leave proof of their presence or simply to post on social media.

Although it may seem harmless, there are several problems and negative impacts behind it. One of these is that many animal species hide under rocks to live, reproduce, or escape predators. If you move a rock, you may be destroying a home. If you stack one on top of another, you may expose prey to predators. Whether this is done in nature areas, along the coast, or in desert environments, it can destroy entire colonies and, in the worst case, threaten species that are already endangered.

There are microorganisms and small species such as insects or certain snakes that live in the soil beneath rocks commonly used for stacking. These rocks help trap moisture underneath, allowing the ecosystem to sustain itself. When you remove a rock, the soil is exposed and the moisture can dry up, killing all living organisms that depend on that humid environment.

Additionally, each rock is full of life—everything from aquatic plants to microorganisms attaches to them. Especially when it comes to rocks near the sea, they create habitats for some marine animals. Holes in the rocks can hold eggs, supporting them until the animals hatch. An expert explained that removing rocks from a fragile environment is essentially the equivalent of removing bricks from someone's house while also taking everything out of their refrigerator.

There is also the issue of erosion and soil damage, because rocks help hold the ground in place, sealing the surface and helping manage excess water, even allowing new life to grow. When these rocks are removed, the soil becomes loose, significantly increasing the rate of erosion in that area.

This erosion can cause sedimentation in nearby bodies of water, negatively impacting aquatic habitats and water quality.

Rocks along the coast are part of a natural ecosystem and play an important role in protecting the shoreline from erosion and the force of the ocean. When people remove or stack rocks, it affects coastal stability, increases the risk of erosion, and damages ecosystems. According to South African National Parks, this is particularly relevant for an island like Aruba—especially considering that most, if not all, rock stacking on the island takes place near coastal areas.

It is understandable that rock stacking may seem like a fun activity to do while off-roading; however, the survival, protection, and conservation of the island are just as important—if not more so—to ensure that in the future there will still be an island for both locals and visitors. We want our visitors to appreciate what Aruba has to offer—in a healthy and sustainable way. ❑

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaboio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the Second World War and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.❑

Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

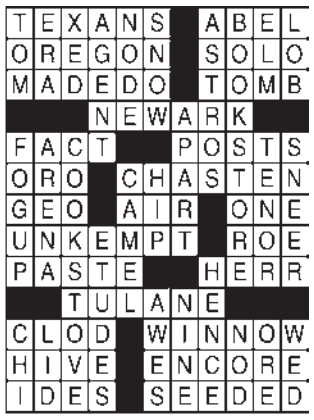
The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. ❑

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

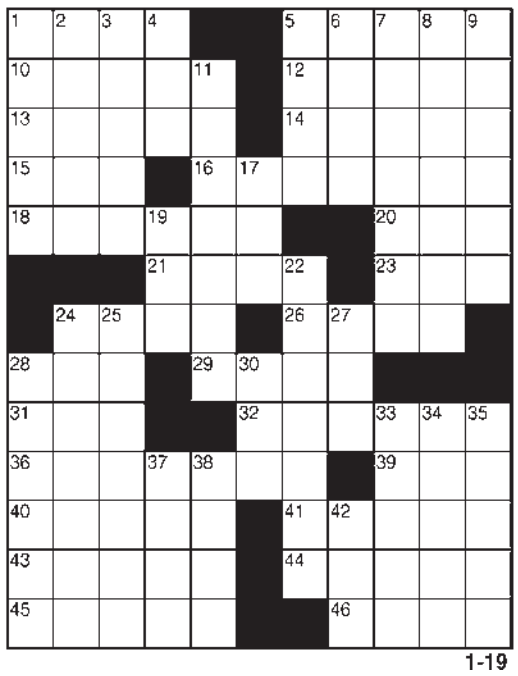


ACROSS

1 Writer Uris
5 Musical symbol
10 Secret lingo
12 Pink shade
13 Rice field
14 Battery end
15 Try out
16 Bird with flippers
18 Solving tool
20 Plopped down
21 Aide: Abbr.
23 Some
24 Posted
26 Lose freshness
28 Bob Cratchit's son
29 Before long
31 Imitating
32 Group of five
36 Fine
39 Holiday lead-in
40 Professor at Hogwarts
41 John of music
43 Quartet doubled
44 Day in Hollywood
45 Calls for
46 Walk in water

DOWN

1 Accept eagerly
2 Make blank
3 Poet Nash
4 Auction action
5 Checkout act
6 — Kong
7 Wakening
8 Glowing
9 More than enough
11 Keyboard pros
17 Golfer Ernie
19 Fire
22 Like the jack of diamonds
24 Library request
25 Spring forth
27 Travel stop
28 Selects via finger
30 Make a choice
33 Aquarium fish
34 Steer clear of
35 Tightly packed
37 Imitated
38 "Why don't we!"
42 De-pressed



1-19

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

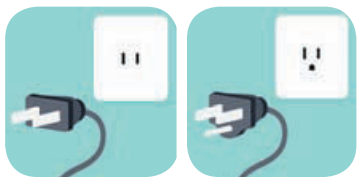
LM UCQ'B ZCAM BSM LVXYE DT JYCTKQW DT BSM XIYMZ, DMUCIZM BSM XIYMZ SCAM BV DM USCQWME. — WXMBC BSIQDMXW

Cryptoquote: IT IS HEALTH THAT IS REAL WEALTH AND NOT PIECES OF GOLD AND SILVER. — MAHATMA GANDHI

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

1	7	6	8					9
3		5	6	9				
				3	5	4	7	
	1					6	3	4
2		4	3	6	9			
	3					8		
	9			5	6	1	2	
8				1	3	9		
4	5		9		2			3

Difficulty: ★ 5/18

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Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	6	1	2	8	5	7	3
2	1	3	6	5	7	4	9	8
7	8	5	3	4	9	2	6	1
5	6	9	4	8	3	1	2	7
3	4	1	5	7	2	6	8	9
8	7	2	9	6	1	3	4	5
6	5	7	8	3	4	9	1	2
1	2	4	7	9	5	8	3	6
9	3	8	2	1	6	7	5	4

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/17

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Big risks and rewards in upcoming IPOs at SpaceX, OpenAI, Anthropic

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is displayed outside a Space Exploration Technologies Corp. facility in Hawthorne, California on March 26, 2026.

New York, United States

Wall Street is licking its chops over an unprecedented slate of massive IPOs set to arrive in the coming months, beginning with Elon Musk's SpaceX in June.

That is expected to be followed by artificial intelligence rivals OpenAI and Anthropic. The trio of mega listings, each eyeing valuations around $1 trillion or more, constitutes a heady period of elevated risk and reward.

SpaceX is targeting an initial public offering that would raise up to $80 billion, roughly double the funds generated from all 2025 IPOs.

OpenAI and Anthropic are eyeing IPOs raising $60 billion, also huge numbers compared with the norm.

"We're really in unprecedented times," said Emily Zheng, an analyst for PitchBook, a research platform specializing in private capital. "And this concentration is more extreme than ever."

The trio is poised to enter public markets as the Middle East war adds to inflationary pressures and fogs the geopolitical landscape.

But that factor is not expected to impede the arrival of SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic.

"These three companies are kind of unique," said Jay Ritter, a specialist in IPOs at the University of Florida.

Mark Roberts, managing partner at the Blueshirt Group, also expects the offerings to be well subscribed.

"There's enough capital to enthusiastically embrace these three companies if they are priced correctly," Roberts said.

Nasdaq, where SpaceX will trade, announced earlier this spring that it would speed up the timeframe for including such mega listings in its main benchmark index.

The shift is expected to prod additional stock purchases of SpaceX from investment funds built around the index.

- Reward or reckoning? -

Among portfolio managers for larger funds, SpaceX "is probably viewed as a must-have stock," said Roberts.

In anticipation of the listings, there has been a throng of activity on secondary markets where investors are buying unlisted securities, pushing Anthropic's theoretic value to more than $1 trillion.

Both OpenAI and Anthropic have warned investors against securities not authorized by the companies.

Once they begin trading on public markets, their performance will serve as a gauge of the market's appetite for additional offerings, particularly in the AI market.

"If these companies do really well -- especially the AI ones, like OpenAI and Anthropic -- it would be a confirmation of these really massive private-market valuations," Zheng said.

"But the opposite could also be true," she added. "If the companies don't perform well, investors might conclude they're overvalued."

Some investors who have backed the three heavyweights in private markets are poised to cash out, potentially positioning them for the next round of tech companies.

Private equity firms currently hold more than 30,000 companies that they hope to exit, a backlog that has slowed availability of capital for new prospects.

A recent Wall Street Journal article highlighted the slowdown, citing one firm that called the dynamic a "winter of exits."

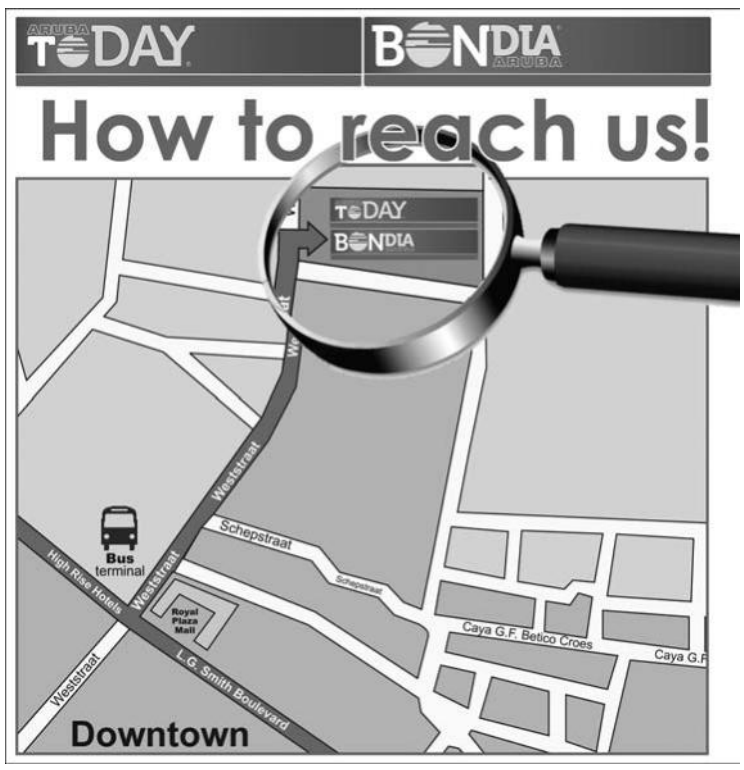
A poor performance by the new entrants could hit the valuations of these private companies, Zheng said.

By going public, the companies will also subject themselves to greater scrutiny from investors.

The market will "be laser-focused on the performance of those stocks from an operational perspective," Roberts said. "So they can't miss their earnings."

Ritter predicted all three companies could see volatility.

"There's going to be big upswings and big downswings, because nobody knows the future," he said. "Owning these stocks is not for the faint of heart."❑



ARUBA TODAY

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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad	San Nicolas
Hospital	IMSAN
7:00 pm/10:00pm	24 HOURS
Tel. 527 4000	Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Rai wins first major at PGA with back-nine birdie blitz

Newtown Square, United States

Aaron Rai won his first major title on Sunday by capturing the PGA Championship, making birdies on four of the last eight holes to become the first Englishman since 1919 to win the event.

Rai sealed a tense back-nine shootout with a spectacular 68-foot birdie putt on the par-three 17th, firing his career-low major round with a five-under-par 65 to finish 72 holes on nine-under 271 at formidable Aronimink.

"Very surreal," said Rai, who has fought a neck injury this year. "It has been a frustrating season so to be standing here is outside my modest imagination."

He defeated two-time major winner Jon Rahm of Spain and American Alex Smalley by three strokes with American Justin Thomas, Germany's Matti Schmid and Sweden's Ludvig Aberg sharing fourth on 275.

The 31-year-old from Wombourne in central England took home a $3.69 million top prize from a record purse of $20.5 million and the Wanamaker Trophy after a dramatic final day.

Rai became only the second English player to win the PGA after Jim Barnes captured the first two titles in 1916 and 1919.

Aaron Rai of England celebrates with The Wanamaker Trophy after winning during the final round of the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club on May 17, 2026 in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

Never better than 19th in 12 prior major starts, Rai won his third DP World Tour title last November in Abu Dhabi and his only PGA Tour title in 2024 at Greensboro.

- Cautious finale -

Playing cautiously in windy weather on Aronimink's sloped greens, the world's top golfers battled the course and each other in a fight that turned as Rai surged into the lead.

Rai answered a bogey at eight with a 40-foot eagle putt at the par-five ninth, then sank birdie putts from four feet at 11 and seven feet at 13, becoming the week's first to reach seven-under.

Schmid, seeking his first PGA Tour title in his fifth major start and first PGA Championship, sank a birdie putt from just inside nine feet at 13 to pull within one of the lead.

Rai responded by reaching the green in two at the par-five 16th to set up a tap-in birdie.

He then delivered a knockout blow by curling in his monster birdie putt over a ridge at 17 to reach nine-under while Schmid made bogey at 15 to leave Rai ahead by four strokes.

"I definitely wasn't trying to hole that putt," Rai said. "The shadow gave the putt a nice line the last 10 feet so that helped. It was about the speed of the putt. Nice to see it go in."

Rahm, the 2021 US Open and 2023 Masters champion, birdied the ninth to reach five-under but made only a bogey and eight pars on the back side.

"I played really good golf," Rahm said. "Just wish I'd have done better with the speed of the greens. Just couldn't seem to get it to the hole, and that's the reason why I didn't hole any more putts.

"Even so, what Aaron did today, catching him could have been very difficult. I feel like I was still close on that playing 16 until he made that long putt."

World number two Rory McIlroy, who won his sixth major title at last month's Masters, shot 69 to share seventh on 276 with American Xander Schauffele and Australian Cameron Smith.

Unheralded Smalley, in only his fifth major, teed off with a one-stroke lead and nine major winners among 22 players within four shots.

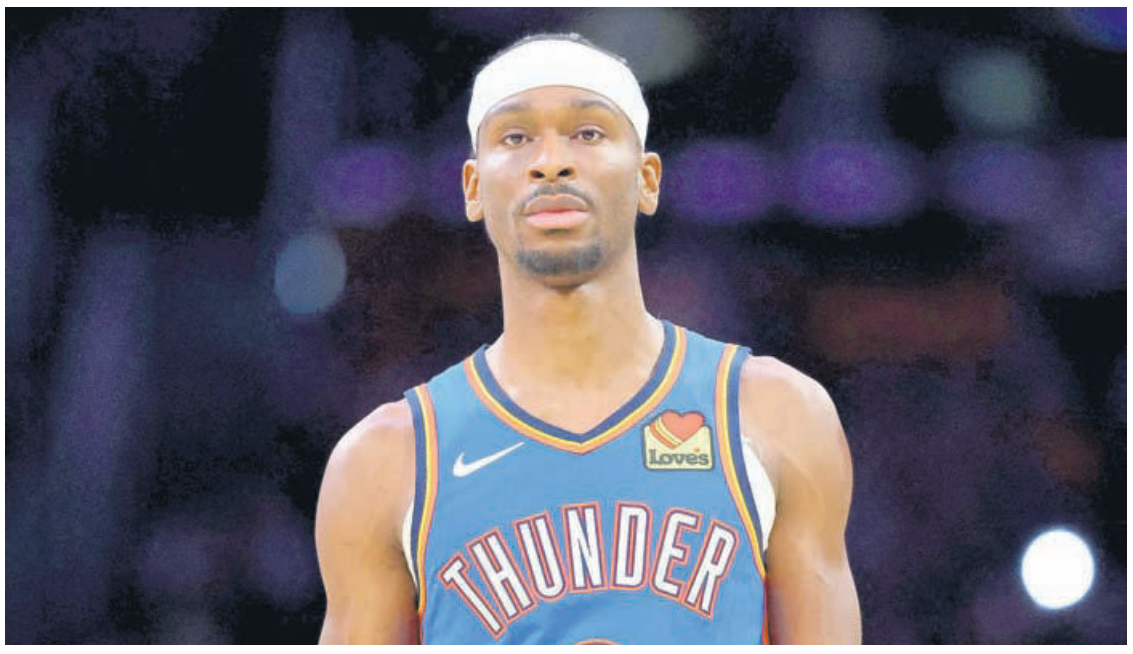
A double bogey at the sixth and bogey at the par-three eighth plunged Smalley back until his eagle-bogey-birdie finish.

American Kurt Kitayama fired a bogey-free, seven-under-par 63 to match the lowest final round in major golf history.

"I'm ecstatic," Kitayama said.

Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler shot 69 to finish on 278.❑

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander wins second straight NBA MVP: ESPN



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander #2 of the Oklahoma City Thunder looks on against the Los Angeles Lakers in Game Four of the Second Round of the NBA Western Conference Playoffs at Crypto.com Arena on May 11, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

Los Angeles, United States

Oklahoma City Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander has been named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for a second straight season, ESPN reported on Sunday.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who is also the reigning NBA Finals MVP, is due to be officially named as the winner of the award later Sunday in a televised announcement.

The ESPN report did not provide details of the voting for the award, which saw Gilgeous-Alexander up against San Antonio Spurs star Victor Wembanyama and Denver's Nikola Jokic.

Canadian star Gilgeous-Alexander, 27, joins an elite club of only 14 NBA players who have won back-to-back MVP honors.

Nuggets star Jokic was the last to achieve the feat in 2021 and 2022, while the Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo also went back-to-back in 2019 and 2020.

Other players to have won consecutive MVPs include Stephen Curry, LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

Gilgeous-Alexander's second award comes after another dazzling individual season that saw him average 31.1 points and 6.6 assists per game, helping the Thunder to a 64-18 record that saw them finish on top of the Western Conference.

The Thunder face Wembanyama and the Spurs in game one of the Western Conference finals on Monday.

Gilgeous-Alexander's MVP also extends a streak of overseas players to win the honor.

The last American to win NBA MVP was James Harden in 2018.❑

Sinner extends Masters tournament streak on home turf, eyes French Open

Rome, Italy

Jannik Sinner has his eyes on a first Roland Garros title after winning the Italian Open on Sunday to claim a record-extending sixth consecutive Masters 1000 tournament victory.

World number one Sinner beat Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 to complete the 'Golden Masters' by winning all of the ATP's top-ranked events, in the process becoming the first Italian men's champion in Rome since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago.

Only Novak Djokovic had previously won all nine Masters 1000 events before Sunday, but there was little doubt about Sinner triumphing over the last 10 days.

Sinner heads into Roland Garros, which starts next weekend, on a 29-match winning streak and will be intent on banishing the ghosts of last year's final when he wasted three championship points before losing to Carlos Alcaraz.

And his run of match wins is even longer in Masters 1000 tournaments -- now at 34 -- another record he has established in a season in which he has dominated the men's tour.

Sinner can complete his collection of Grand Slams and, with his great rival Alcaraz out of action, few would bet against him securing a first title on Paris clay.

"I need to keep myself in form because there's my most important tournament of the year coming up," Sinner told reporters.

"I don't want to put too much pressure on myself because the pressure comes anyway. The most important thing to do right now is take a break and do the right things.

"I don't even want to think too much about tennis right now."

Ruud has won more matches and tournaments on clay than anyone else on the men's tour since the start of 2020 -- his last title on the surface coming at the Madrid Masters last year -- but he couldn't beat Sinner for the first time.

- 'Better and better' -

Norwegian Ruud had never won a set against Sinner in any of their previous four meetings, but immediately improved on the fearful hammering he received here from the Italian last year by winning the first two games. But Sinner broke straight back and took the lead in the match after an opening set in which the world number 25 held his own against a player he'd previously said "cannot lose".

Sinner then broke Ruud again at the start of the second set and from there it was just a matter of time before he won the championship, even though Ruud performed with credit in front of a packed centre court crowd.

"I know that in football it's a different story," joked Ruud, whose country will play in a World Cup for the first time since 1998.

Norway reached this summer's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico at the expense of Italy, who in March failed for a third consecutive time to qualify for the global showpiece.

"I never played the big three in their prime... But I'm sure Roger, Novak, Rafa, 25, 26 years old was also the same feeling for the other players," said Ruud of Sinner to reporters afterwards.

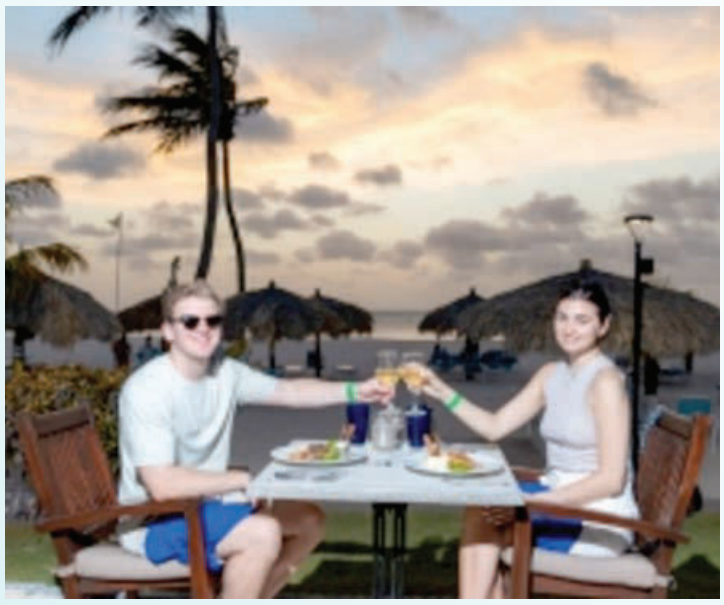
"I don't see him getting any worse, unfortunately. You just have to think that you have to be better and better because he's also going to get better and better."

Italy's Jannik Sinner holds the trophy after winning the men's final of the ATP Rome Open tennis tournament against Norway's Casper Ruud at the Foro Italico in Rome on May 17, 2026.

It was a golden Sunday for Italian tennis as Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori also won the men's doubles title, beating second seeds Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos 7-6 (10/8), 6-7 (3/7), 10-3.❑

Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort

Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

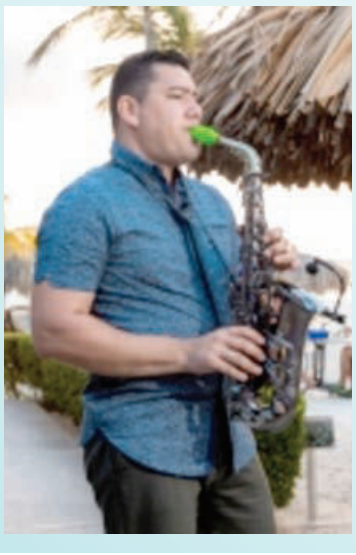
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com ❑